

low-income families with very young children designed to promote the development of the children, and to enable their parents to fulfill their roles as parents and to move toward self-sufficiency.

“(b) **SCOPE AND DESIGN OF PROGRAMS.**—In carrying out a program described in subsection (a), an entity receiving assistance under this section shall—

“(1) provide, either directly or through referral, early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services that will enhance the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of participating children;

“(2) ensure that the level of services provided to families responds to their needs and circumstances;

“(3) promote positive parent-child interactions;

“(4) provide services to parents to support their role as parents (including parenting skills training and training in basic child development) and to help the families move toward self-sufficiency (including educational and employment services as appropriate);

“(5) coordinate services with services provided by programs in the State (including home-based services) and programs in the community (including programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities and programs for homeless infants and toddlers) to ensure a comprehensive array of services (such as health and mental health services and family support services);

“(6) ensure formal linkages with local Head Start programs in order to provide for continuity of services for children and families;

“(7) in the case of a Head Start agency that operates a program and that also provides Head Start services through the age of mandatory school attendance, ensure that children and families participating in the program receive such services through such age;

“(8) ensure formal linkages with the agencies and entities described in section 644(b) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1444(b)) and providers of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) and the agency responsible for administering section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a);

“(9) develop and implement a systematic procedure for transitioning children and parents from an Early Head Start program under this section into a Head Start program or other local early childhood education program;

“(10) establish channels of communication between staff of Early Head Start programs under this section and staff of Head Start programs or other local early childhood education programs, to facilitate the coordination of programs; and

“(11) meet such other requirements concerning design and operation of the program described in subsection (a) as the Secretary may establish.

“(c) **PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE.**—Persons who may participate in programs described in subsection (a) include—

“(1) pregnant women; and

“(2) families with children under age 3;

who meet the income criteria specified for families in section 645(a)(1).

“(d) **ELIGIBLE SERVICE PROVIDERS.**—To be eligible to receive assistance under this section, an entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require. Entities that may apply to carry out activities under this section include—

“(1) entities operating Head Start programs under this subpart;

“(2) Indian Head Start programs; and

“(3) other public entities, and nonprofit or for-profit private entities, including community-based and faith-based organizations, capable of providing child and family services that meet

the standards for participation in programs under this subchapter and meet such other appropriate requirements relating to the activities under this section as the Secretary may establish.

“(e) **SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.**—From the portion specified in section 640(a)(6), the Secretary shall award grants under this subsection on a competitive basis to applicants meeting the criteria specified in subsection (d) (giving priority to entities with a record of providing early, continuous, and comprehensive childhood development and family services).

“(f) **DISTRIBUTION.**—In awarding grants to eligible applicants under this section, the Secretary shall—

“(1) ensure an equitable national geographic distribution of the grants; and

“(2) award grants to applicants proposing to serve communities in rural areas and to applicants proposing to serve communities in urban areas.

“(g) **MONITORING, TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND EVALUATION.**—

“(1) **REQUIREMENT.**—To ensure the successful operation of programs assisted under this section, the Secretary shall use funds from the portion specified in section 640(a)(6) to monitor the operation of such programs, evaluate their effectiveness, and provide training and technical assistance tailored to the particular needs of such programs.

“(2) **TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACCOUNT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the amount made available to carry out this section for any fiscal year, not less than 5 percent and not more than 10 percent shall be reserved to fund a training and technical assistance account.

“(B) **ACTIVITIES.**—Funds in the account may be used by the Secretary for purposes including—

“(i) making grants to, and entering into contracts with, organizations with specialized expertise relating to infants, toddlers, and families and the capacity needed to provide direction and support to a national training and technical assistance system, in order to provide such direction and support;

“(ii) providing ongoing training and technical assistance for regional and program staff charged with monitoring and overseeing the administration of the program carried out under this section;

“(iii) providing ongoing training and technical assistance for existing recipients (as of the date of such training or assistance) of grants under subsection (a) and support and program planning and implementation assistance for new recipients of such grants;

“(iv) providing professional development and personnel enhancement activities, including the provision of funds to recipients of grants under subsection (a) for the recruitment and retention of qualified staff with an appropriate level of education and experience; and

“(v) providing professional development designed to increase program participation for underserved populations of eligible children.

“(h) **CENTER-BASED STAFF.**—The Secretary shall ensure that, not later than September 30, 2009, all teachers providing direct services to children and families participating in early Head Start programs located in early Head Start centers have a minimum of a child development associate credential, and have been trained (or have equivalent course work) in early childhood development.

“(i) **STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT.**—

“(1) **HOME VISITOR STAFF STANDARDS.**—In order to further enhance the quality of home visiting services provided to families of children participating in home-based, center-based, or combination program options under this subchapter, the Secretary shall establish standards for training, qualifications, and the conduct of home visits for home visitor staff in Early Head Start programs.

“(2) **CONTENTS OF STANDARDS.**—The standards for training, qualifications, and the conduct of home visits shall include content related to—

“(A) structured child-focused home visiting that promotes parents' ability to support the child's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development;

“(B) effective strengths-based parent education, including methods to encourage parents as their child's first teachers;

“(C) early childhood development with respect to children from birth through age 3;

“(D) methods to help parents promote emergent literacy in their children from birth through age 3;

“(E) ascertaining what health and developmental services the family receives and working with these providers to eliminate gaps in service by offering annual health, vision, hearing, and developmental screening for children from birth to entry into kindergarten, when needed;

“(F) strategies for helping families coping with crisis; and

“(G) the relationship of health and well-being of pregnant women to prenatal and early child development.”

SEC. 14. PARENTAL CONSENT REQUIREMENT FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

The Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831) is amended by inserting after section 645A the following:

“SEC. 645B. PARENTAL CONSENT REQUIREMENT FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section:

“(1) The term ‘health care service’ includes—

“(A) any nonemergency intrusive physical examination; and

“(B) any screening, including but not limited to, a medical, dental, developmental, mental health, social, or behavioral screening.

“(2) The term ‘nonemergency intrusive physical examination’ means, with respect to a child, a physical examination that—

“(A) is not immediately necessary to protect the health or safety of such child, or the health or safety of another individual; and

“(B) includes incision or is otherwise invasive, or includes exposure of private body parts.

“(b) **REQUIREMENT.**—Before administering any health care service to a child (or referring a child to obtain such service) in connection with participation in a program under this subchapter, a Head Start agency and an entity that receives assistance under section 645A shall obtain the written consent of a parent of such child indicating consent for each specific health care service to be performed.

“(c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—

“(1) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a Head Start agency or an entity that receives assistance under section 645A from using established methods for handling cases of suspected or known child abuse and neglect, that are in compliance with applicable Federal, State, or tribal law.

“(2) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to permit a Head Start agency, an entity that receives assistance under section 645A, or the personnel of such agency or entity to administer any health care service to a child (or to refer a child to obtain such service) without the informed written consent of a parent of such child indicating consent for each specific health care service to be performed.

“(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a Head Start agency or an entity that receives assistance under section 645A to provide separate consent forms for each specific health care service.”

SEC. 15. APPEALS, NOTICE, AND HEARING.

Section 646(a)(3) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9841(a)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) if financial assistance under this subchapter is terminated or reduced, an application for a noncompeting continuation award is denied based on a previous failure to comply with terms applicable to financial assistance previously provided under this subchapter, or suspension of financial assistance is continued for